

Chapel of the Good Shepherd  
HO-890  
2801 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
Ca. 1870  
Private

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd (ca. 1870) is located at the intersection of Rogers Avenue and Church Lane Road, about 2 miles north of downtown Ellicott City, in Howard County, Maryland. The chapel, which was converted to a house in the 1930s, is set in the northeast corner of an 8-acre cemetery, near the roadway intersection. The chapel and a shed are the only buildings on the property.

The vernacular Gothic Revival style Chapel of the Good Shepherd is the main building on the property. It is a 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed chapel with a 1 ½-story wing, which gives the building an L-shaped footprint. The building, which is set on a stone foundation, has replacement siding over the original wood board and batten siding, an asphalt roof, and vinyl replacement windows. The building has a steeply pitched roof line and deep projecting eaves, giving it the iconic chapel form. It is difficult to be certain, because the replacement siding covers the building, but it seems likely that the wing was added in the 1930s, when the chapel was converted to a caretaker's residence.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is located at the center of a 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural community historically known as Jonestown. Initially settled by Rezin Jones and his extended family, the family patriarch donated the land for a local cemetery in 1870. A prominent nearby parish, St. John's, seems to have been initially associated with construction of the chapel. The Chapel also embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type period and method of construction. The Chapel is a good representative of a modest vernacular Gothic Revival chapel. While the building is currently sheathed in replacement materials, and has lost its original windows, the attenuated vertical proportions of both the building and the fenestration remain clearly legible.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-890

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd Cemetery (preferred)  
 other Good Shepherd Cemetery caretaker's house

## 2. Location

street and number 2801 Rogers Avenue not for publication  
 city, town Ellicott City vicinity  
 county Howard

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Good Shepherd Cemetery c/o Raymond V. Merkle  
 street and number 8112 Liberty Road telephone n/a  
 city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21244

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records liber 173 folio 584  
 city, town Columbia tax map 17 tax parcel 472 tax ID number 1402255731

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>0</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. HO-890

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair                altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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The chapel's primary, gable-front, façade faces west. The original wood, half-glass, paired front doors remain. The doors have arched lights over wood panels. A gable-roofed porch, with a concrete deck, shelters the entrance. Narrow vertical window openings flank the entrance. A circular window opening is centered in the gable, but is currently covered by the replacement siding.

The chapel's south (side) façade has an entrance flanked by two window openings. A gable-roofed porch, with a concrete deck, shelters the entrance. A 1-story-gable-roofed apse projects from the east façade of the building. The apse has one window opening centered on both of its façades.

A 1 ½-story gable-roofed wing projects from the north façade of the chapel and apse. The west façade has one 1<sup>st</sup> story window opening. The north façade is symmetrically arranged with two 1<sup>st</sup> floor window opening and one square attic story window opening, which still holds an original four-light wood window. The west elevation of the wing has a centered door opening covered by a gable-roofed door hood supported by wood brackets. A brick stove chimney pierces the western roof slope of the wing.

The visible portion of the north façade of the chapel has two window openings.

A non-contributing equipment shed is located east of the chapel.

The chapel is set in the northeast corner of the cemetery property. The building is set on a lawn dotted with mature trees and shrubs. A wood picket fence encloses a small yard northwest of the house, formed by the Chapel and the wing. A U-shaped drive leads past the south side of the chapel and through the cemetery. A few mature trees are located amongst the burial plots. Grave markers date from ca. 1870-present.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-890

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1870, 1893, 1894, 1922, 1938, 1939 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** 1870, 1939

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is located at the center of a 19<sup>th</sup> agricultural community historically known as Jonestown. Initially settled by Rezin Jones and his extended family, the family patriarch donated the land for a local cemetery in 1870. A prominent nearby parish, St. John's, seems to have been initially associated with construction of the chapel. The Chapel also embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type period and method of construction. The Chapel is a good representative of a modest vernacular Gothic Revival chapel. While the building is currently sheathed in replacement materials, and has lost its original windows, the attenuated vertical proportions of both the building and the fenestration remain clearly legible.

Anna Moore, who was raised in the area of the Chapel, gave the following history of the property for a ca. 1990 Veteran's Day celebration program:

What is now the caretaker's residence was the Chapel of the Good Shepherd from 1871-1922. This Chapel was built in 1870 as a Chapel of Ease of St. John's Church and it was consecrated April 30, 1871 by Bishop Whittingham.<sup>1</sup> The lot upon which the Chapel was erected was deeded November 14, 1870 by Rezin Jones and his wife Margaret to the Bishop of the Diocese for both a chapel and cemetery to be started thereon. From 1870 to 1893, it continued as a chapel of St. John's Church, but, in 1894 it became closely associated with St. Alban's Chapel, Alberton. This connection was dissolved. However, in 1895 this chapel was placed under direct care of the Bishop and the Committee on Missions. In 1922, the chapel was closed. The Reverend Helfenstein was the pastor who conducted services once a month. Earliest interments in the cemetery of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd date back to the time when the chapel was opened for worship. On May 3, 1938 the Convention deeded to William H. Hanson, Aquilla Streaker, John L. Hobson, and Clinton M. Easton of Howard County and J. Oscar Davis of Baltimore County, Trustees, the three acres of land originally donated by Rezin Jones on condition that a corporation he formed known as "The Good Shepherd Cemetery, Inc."<sup>2</sup> The Trustees were empowered "to conduct, operated, manage and control, sell lots and develop, with later objective to create a fund for perpetual care." Corporation was immediately formed and plans for converting the chapel building into a home and office for the caretaker, William H. Hanson, were begun. Since May 1933, one-half of the proceeds from the sale of the lots has been placed in trust for perpetual care, the balance being used for current expenses, caretaker's salary and for remodeling the chapel. Among those buried in the cemetery are Rezin Jones, who originally deeded the lot and Dr. William H. Gambrill, prominent local physician.

<sup>1</sup> A chapel of ease is a church or chapel built in an outlying district of a parish, so called because intended to relieve the parish church and accommodate the parishioners living at a distance from it.

<sup>2</sup> William H. Hanson was a local fruit farmer who kept orchards east of the property. He was almost 70 years old 1938. Aquilla Streaker was the store manager at the Alberton Mill. John Hobson was an overseer at a cotton mill, presumably also Alberton. Clinton Easton had a family funeral parlor in Ellicott City. J. Oscar Davis lived in Oella and was associated with the flour mill.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. HO-890

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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In 1939, Ezekial R. Moxley, donated \$1,000.00 to the Trustees, to purchase five acres of land from William Stanley Moxley and wife to add to Good Shepherd Cemetery. The tract was deeded over to the Trustees, William H. Hanson, Aquilla Streaker, John L. Hobson, Clinton M. Easton and J. Oscar Davis, on August 15, 1939. This tract was to be called the Ezekial R. Moxley Memorial. It was agreed to erect a stone tablet with the following inscription there "Ezekiel R. Moxley, Memorial, 1939," and is so recorded in the minutes. The memorial tablet is in place.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-890

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule 1930.**

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878.** Ellicott City, MD: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975.

Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

“Good Shepherd Cemetery, Established, 1870,” undated pamphlet (located at the Howard County Historical Society).

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 8 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 8 acres  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City                      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd Cemetery corresponds to Howard County Map 17, Grid 18, Parcel 472.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	August 22, 2005
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

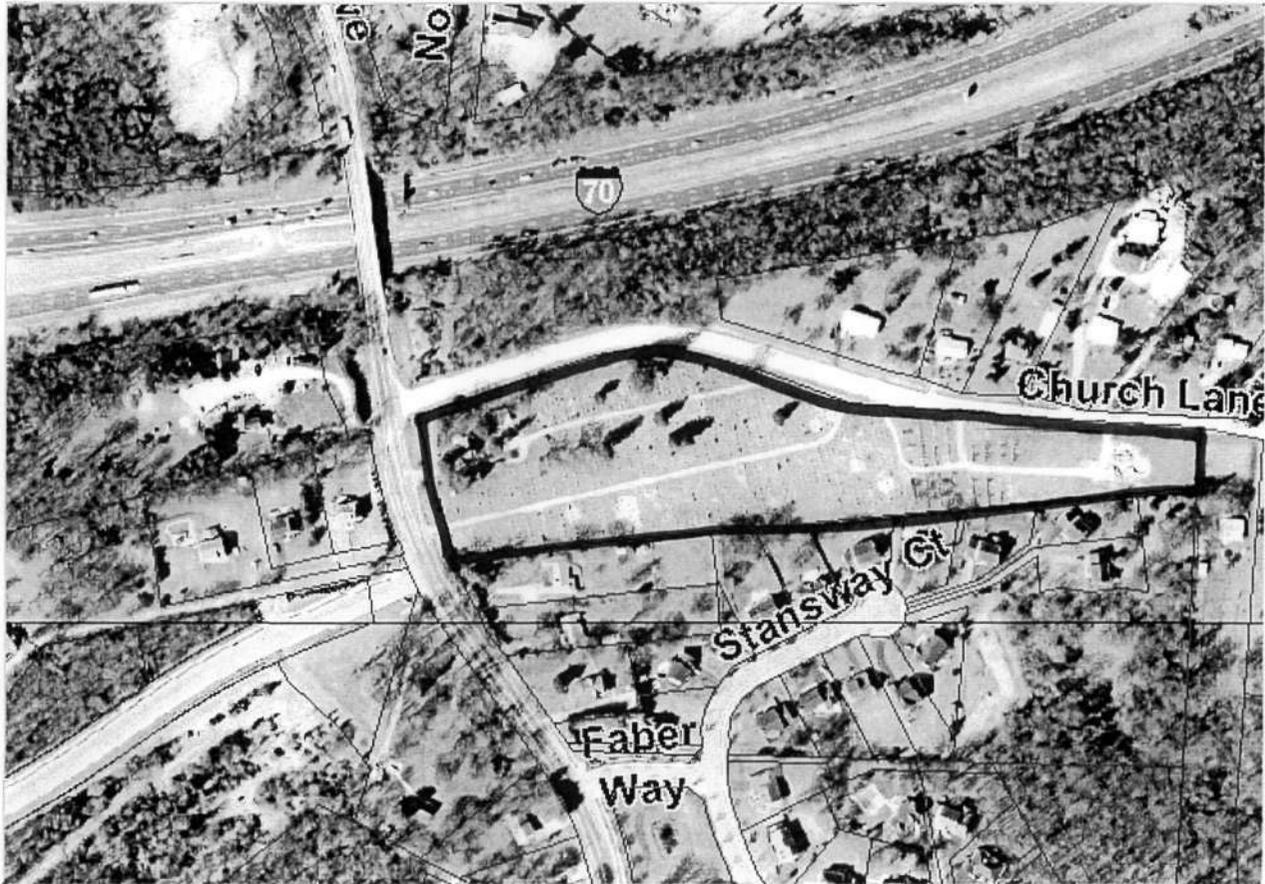
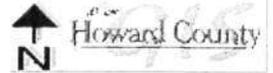
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:                      Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



Distance:  ft

Zoom: 2256.25 ft



**Chapel of the Good Shepherd (HO-890)**  
2801 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
*Site plan/Aerial photo*



Distance:  ft

Zoom:  ft



Howard County



**Chapel of the Good Shepherd (HO-890)**  
2801 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
*Site plan/Aerial photo*



**Chapel of the Good Shepherd (HO-890)**  
**2801 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City**  
**Howard County**  
**USGS Ellicott City Quad**



HO-890

Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Good

09/05

MDSHPO

View W. Snows Chapel in Burial ground.

6229 - 11/11/01 11 6229

1063







H0-830

Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Howard County, Md

Jennifer Gould

09/05

MD SHPO

View SE. Shows Chapel.

6219 - 1111111 10: 11 2500 5

3063